

Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: March 22, 2002

From: Diane C. Eidam

File:
Reference Number 5.2
Information

Ref.: UPDATE ON STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS FOR TRI-
COUNTY PROJECTS

This is an information item to allow the three Counties - Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, the Department, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to update the Commission on progress toward environmental documentation for the SR 49 Bypass Project. This is a follow-up to last months information item.

ACTC

AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

March 21, 2002

Ms. Diane C. Eidam
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, Room 2233 (MS-52)
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Amador 49 Bypass Environmental Clearance

Dear Ms. Eidam:

The Amador County Transportation Commission (ACTC) and the Tri-County partnership continue to appreciate the support and assistance being provided by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) to ensure that the four state highway projects programmed with "pooled" STIP funds are delivered on schedule. The ACTC and the partnership appreciate the particular attention being given to the number one priority Amador 49 Bypass project. The schedule for completion of environmental clearance (PA&ED) for this project has been delayed from December 2000 to April 2002. The CTC has been helping to directly monitor completion of PA&ED by the new and delayed schedule (April 1, 2002). Toward this effort they have requested a status report for their meeting on April 4, 2002.

During the last CTC meeting, February 28, 2002, six actions were identified which need to be carried out in order for environmental clearance (PA&ED) to be achieved on or around April 1, 2002. These steps and the approximate deadlines for each of them are shown on an attached page. As of this time, the first four actions have been accomplished. The Fish and Wildlife Service has issued a Biological Opinion that is apparently acceptable to Caltrans and the FHWA. The next two steps, (1) FHWA approves FONSI and (2) Caltrans approves PA&ED, should be accomplished before the CTC meeting on April 4, 2002. I will plan to attend your meeting again on behalf of the Tri-County partnership and join Caltrans' representatives in advising whether or not the deadline has been met.

Sincerely,

Charles F. Field
Executive Director

CF/rs
Attachment

**Amador 49 Sutter Creek Bypass
Actions Needed To Accomplish PA&ED
By April 1, 2002**

Following their meeting on February 20, 2002, the FWS, FHWA and Caltrans agreed upon a process that can achieve PA&ED before April 1, 2002:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2/22 | FWS provides justification for need to consider red-legged frog to FHWA. |
| 2/27 | FHWA requests FWS to consider red-legged frogs in their "Biological Opinion." |
| 3/1± | Caltrans and FWS agree to 135 acres, including an as-yet-unspecified acreage of wetlands and information about project culverts to be provided in an amended project description. |
| 3/14 | FWS to issue Biological Opinion (that is previewed by and acceptable to FHWA). |
| 3/15-20 | FHWA approves FONSI. |
| 4/1 | Caltrans approves PA&ED. |